

Message Text

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ACTION EB-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-04 ARA-06 SS-14 SP-02 L-01 IO-03

EUR-08 NEA-07 EA-06 INR-05 /060 W

----- 068413

R 281230Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6818

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 0894

STADIS////////////////////

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, EAG, EGEN, US, XX

SUBJECT: US POSITION ON THE NEW COCOA PACT

REFERENCE (A) 75 STATE 300220, (B) ABIDJAN 206 (C) LONDON 616,
(D) 75 STATE A-7228, (E) STATE 12368, (F) ABIDJAN 684,
(G) 75 STATE 300220, (H) STATE 017295

1. SUMMARY. IN ABSENCE OF AMBASSADOR, CHARGE CALLED
ON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE SAWADOGO, ON JANUARY 27, TO
CONVEY REGRETS OVER NY MISUNDERSTANDINGS ARISING FROM
UNAUTHORIZED PARSKY STATEMENT AND TO HAND HIM FRENCH
TRANSLATION OF TEXT OF STATEMENT ON COMMODITY POLICY
CONTAINED IN REFTEL (E). SAWADOGO SAID PARSKY STATEMENT
HAD COMPLICATED IVORY COAST'S POSITION, THAT IT WAS
ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY FOR USG TO MAKE ITS POLICY
ON COMMODITIES CLEAR AT HIGH LEVEL, AND THAT USG SHOULD
MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO PERSUADE PRODUCERS AND
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CONSUMERS, ESPECIALLY FRANCE, OF SINCERITY OF US READINESS

TO SEEK AGREEMENT ON COCOA. HE SAID PRODUCERS, ESPECIALLY GHANA AND NIGERIA, ARE DEEPLY SUSPICIOUS THAT USG IS STALLING. END SUMMARY.

2. CHARGE AND ECON COUNSELOR CALLED ON SAWADOGO ON JANUARY 27 TO EXPLAIN THAT PARSKY STATEMENT OF JANUARY 15 WAS NOT AUTHORIZED AND DOES NOT REPRESENT OFFICIAL USG POSITION. CHARGE REITERATED USG'S POSITION AS PRESENTED TO SAWADOGO BY AMBASSADOR SMITH (REFTELS B AND F) THAT WE ARE STILL VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN REOPENING COCOA NEGOTIATIONS TO PRODUCE ECONOMICALLY SOUND AGREEMENT. CHARGE TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO HAND SAWADOGO FRENCH TRANSLATION OF TEXT OF STATEMENT OF US COMMODITY POLICY AS SET FORTH IN REFTEL (E).

3. SAWADOGO SAID HE HAD SEEN EXTRACTS FROM PARSKY'S STATEMENT, AND THAT HE SAW NOTHING POSITIVE IN THEM. PARSKY'S STATEMENT HAS, IN FACT, COMPLICATED THE GOIC'S POSITION, AS IT WILL NOW BE ACCUSED OF FOLLOWING US LEAD, WHEN, IN FACT, IT WAS AND IS PREPARED TO TAKE INDEPENDENT STAND.

4. SAWADOGO READ CAREFULLY STATEMENTS OF US COMMODITY POLICY. HE WAS PLEASED AT PHRASING OF PARA 4-B WHICH DESCRIBES AGREEMENT AS DEFICIENT IN A NUMBER OF ASPECTS RATHER THAN TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE. HOWEVER, HE ASKED WHERE AND AT WHAT LEVEL, ESPECIALLY AMONG CONSUMING NATIONS, HAS SUGGESTION TO RENEGOTIATE BEEN MADE. HE STRESSED THAT NOW MORE THAN EVER, FOLLOWING THE PARSKY STATEMENT, IT WAS CRUCIAL THAT THE USG MAKE ITS POSITION ON COMMODITY POLICY ABSOLUTELY CLEAR. HE WOULD NOT PRESUME TO TELL THE USG WHERE, BUT HE MENTIONED THE ICCO IN LONDON, THE COMMODITIES COMMISSION IN PARIS, OR BILATERALLY TO PRODUCING AND CONSUMING NATIONS. SAWADOGO STATED THAT NOW WAS OPPORTUNE MOMENT FOR A FORMAL USG DEMARCHE ON REOPENING COCOA NEGOTIATIONS. GOIC ITSELF HAD RECENTLY MADE APPROACH TO FRANCE (COOPERATION MINISTER DE LIPKOWSKY WAS IN ABIDJAN THIS WEEK) ASKING GOF TO RECONSIDER ITS POSITION ON NEW COCOA AGREEMENT. SAWADOGO SAID IT IS CRITICAL THAT THE USG DO ITS BEST TO CONVINCE

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CONSUMING NATIONS, ESPECIALLY FRANCE, THAT NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE REOPENED. SAWADOGO REITERATED GOIC'S POSITION THAT AGREEMENT BEARS NO RELATIONSHIP TO REAL MARKET FORCES. SAWADOGO TOUCHED ON A PRODUCERS' MEETING IN BRAZIL IN LATE FEBRUARY PRIOR TO WHICH USG SHOULD SEIZE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE ITS POSITION CLEAR. HE WAS AWARE OF THE U.S. CONSULTATIONS WITH MEXICO AND DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (REFTEL H) AND HOPED THESE COUNTRIES WOULD HOLD FIRM.

5. SAWADOGO SAID THERE WAS A GENUINE LACK OF CONFIDENCE AMONG AFRICAN NATIONS REGARDING USG INTENTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE COCOA AGREEMENT. GHANA AND NIGERIA, IN PARTICULAR, ARE DEEPLY SUSPICIOUS THAT USG IS STALLING, AND UNWILLING ENDORSE PROMOTION CAMPAIGN FOR COCOA SINCE SOME US COMPANIES ARE SEEKING COCOA SUBSTITUTES. IVORY COAST HAS BEEN HARD PRESSED ON POLITICAL BASIS TO CHANGE ITS STAND IN SUPPORT OF AFRICAN, LDC AND PRODUCER SOLIDARITY.

6. CHARGE REITERATED TO SAWADOGO THAT USG STILL DEFINITELY WANTS TO REOPEN NEGOTIATIONS AND ACHIEVE WORKABLE AGREEMENT AND THAT HE WOULD CONVEY SAWADOGO'S VIEW TO THE AMBASSADOR AND TO THE DEPARTMENT. SMITH

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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